

Radio Script

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Announcer: Byron said it:

"My words at least are more sincere and hearty than if I sought to sail before the wind."

Close: Good Evening, My Fellow Americans. This is Upton Close.

What is a Fascist in this post-war age? In Britain, Lord Vansittart, former permanent Undersecretary of the British Foreign Office has pounced upon several groups of people with the accusation that they are revising fascism. In the same week, several communist papers in the United States accused Lord Vansittart of being an incurable Fascist. Other papers which endorse the system of ownership and business guaranteed by the American Constitution, called the communist papers promoters of Red fascism.

It gets to be quite a game, doesn't it?—this calling of anyone whose politics you do not like a Fascist! It reminds me of the days after the last world war when anyone who did or believed anything the name-caller did not like was called a "bolshevik".

What do the people who use the word fascist in such fast and loose fashion really mean by it? It is apparent that what the users of the term "fascist" now want to do is make people think that all employers of labor and all owners of property and all who rent houses or rooms to others are wicked people. The latest smear word for "capitalist" is "fascist". The idea is to start a class war and bring about the dictatorship of the proletariat by dividing us into two classes, and smearing all persons who do not believe in collectivism with that borrowed word, "fascist".

The greatest capitalist in the world today is the government of Soviet Russia. It owns and operates every industry in its country and rents out every room in Russia. If this be not capitalism, then nothing is. It is completely monopolistic capitalism. It is bad capitalism—the most heartless and ruthless that has ever been known on this earth. It uses the police to put not only competitors but objectors out of business. It is greedy capitalism—the greediest ever known—so greedy that it is gobbling up neighboring countries all around it and refusing to get along with its fellow nations in the United Nations Organization.

You can never get away from capitalism in this world any more than you can get away from work. You can regulate capitalism by balancing it with good labor organizations, and by law, and through education which increases the sense of social responsibility among both owners and workers. On the other hand, you can put capitalism in the hands of political bosses or elected politicians and their appointed bureaucrats—if you prefer to believe the promises people make who expect to become the boss class when THAT happens. Few voters in America are going to do this with their eyes open, but a great many can be deluded or disgusted into doing it.

Remember that in this machine age all communities are capitalistic and have got to be. Communism is not anti-capitalism. Instead, it is a tighter form of capitalism and

one less subject to the restraint of law and human kindness than any we have had before.

There are now in the world only two kinds of states. One is the enterprise state and the other is the slave state. The enterprise state is the organized society which grants freedom to individuals to develop natural resources and property and to invent and profit by ideas. It permits so many of its people to increase wealth in this good fashion that the impulse to gain wealth by impoverishing other people, at home or abroad, almost disappears. The ideal free state is one in which every citizen who works hard and thinks hard can increase his wealth without increasing the poverty of anyone else.

The other kind of state is the slave state. All the great empires of history have been slave states in which a small upper class lived in luxury through the toil of the many who were subject to them. In some cases they took their tribute through controlled trade. They made the people of great areas in the world which they held in subjection sell the raw materials they produced only to them, and they made these people buy finished goods only from them. This was the complaint of the American revolutionists who held the Boston Tea Party.

In spite of the principles of its founders, and the wonderful Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the United States of America was largely a slave state until it got started on the true path of enterprise following the Civil War. Within thirty years after that, from 1870 to 1900, it became the richest nation on earth, with the highest standard of living for the greatest number of its people of any nation on earth. Not all capitalists who developed the resources of our continent, and benefited by the market afforded by the consumers of this country, were fair to labor. But enough of them shared with their employees to make the United States the highest-class market on earth. It became an accepted belief, which must have had a great deal of fact behind it, that any boy who was bright and energetic could raise himself to a state which would be called wealthy anywhere else in the world. There were things to be improved in this system, but it provided means for people to make themselves well-to-do out of the resources under their noses, instead of by taking away from others, either inside or outside of our own territory.

This was not due primarily to the richness of our territory. Russia has for 200 years had more territory, every bit as wealthy in mineral and agricultural resources as this Nation's, yet the people of Russia today are as poor as the poorest in the United States before the Civil War. The capitalism of Russia still operates on the theory of taking wealth away from the producers, rather than encouraging individuals to use wealth. Russia is still a slave state.

Slave state governments HAVE to keep on looting in order to exist. First they loot the richer classes among their own people to establish themselves. Then they start looting neighboring peoples, and building empire to keep their own people satisfied that they are getting somewhere and becoming great even though they remain miserable and poor. This is the fundamental reason why the dictator-

ship of Russia keeps on grabbing and looting its little neighbors.

Many of our sentimental people calmed their fears with the theory, just as the war was closing, that Russia would tend to her own business and not bother anyone else because she had all she could do to take care of her own people and her own problems. It has not worked that way, as a historian would have known, and those people who put so much trust in Russia are now either bitter or utterly confused and lost. Of course, the real Communists among us who UNDERSTOOD Marxism KNEW that Russia would do just the opposite of tending to her own internal affairs, and they gloried in the thought, because they intend to make themselves part of the greatest looting gang in history. The prize they have in sight is the United States of America, the richest country to loot in the story of man. These people understood very well what Shakespeare meant when he had King Henry IV say to his son on his deathbed: "Therefore, my Harry, be it thy course to busy giddy minds with foreign quarrels. That action hence borne out may waste (or remove) the memory of former days." So long as Russia remains a slave state, the government of Russia will continue to gobble up anything weaker in its path.

You see the same motive working out in Britain today. Britain grew wealthy not on the resources of the British Isles but from commissions taken from the toil and products of others around the world. There was of course a great deal of honest labor contributed by British workmen, which deserved more than it got, but the government of Britain had to go on clinging to empire and exploiting foreign areas which it held by force. Therefore it had to go out and get into wars. Now we see the beginning of the second phase in Britain. The socialist government there is resorting by degrees to confiscating the stored up wealth of its own wealthy class in order to keep going. This is being done in a less violent and crude fashion than it was done in Russia, but it is being done just as surely, and just as surely it means the beginning of the end of the Glory that was Britain.

The amazing thing is that people who should know how these things work—people who SHOULD have studied history—want to ape Russia and Britain in this country! This is totally unnecessary. There is no limit to OUR development if we free the enterprise of human individuals to work upon OUR RESOURCES. A few years ago you heard the story—it was much propagandized by Harold Ickes—that we would soon be out of oil. The date set for us to run out of this elixir of industrial life was 1929. Men called capitalists, and men called scientists put their capital and determination and brains to work on the problem and today we have more fuel in sight than ever before in spite of the tremendous squandering of the war, and during which we fueled up most of the allied war machines, while Britain hoarded her oil deposits. Now we have not only synthetic oil, but gasoline made from natural gas, while men have learned to deep-drill and slant-drill into natural deposits previously undreamed of. So it goes, and so it will always go, where human initiative is free. But once the government begins to perpetuate itself by seizing and expropriating wealth, initiative stops and productive society turns into the state living on loot. Free society turns into slave society.

Our stateists have some new tricks for doing this. One, is use of labor unions. Labor unions were never designed by Altgeld and Gompers and the other great souls who founded the labor movement in America for any such purpose, but the movement they founded is being perverted by some of its most able present day leaders. Perhaps the most ominous move yet in that direction is the scheme which has popped up in several labor disputes for the unions which contain the rank and file of the workers to

unionize and absorb the foremen—who are actually the representatives of management. What this does is to make union bosses really the bosses of the foremen and take managing away from management. This demand is the critical issue in the coal strike and the threatened rail strike. John L. Lewis demands to absorb the foremen's unions in the mines, and he is backed up by a recent decision of the National Labor Relations Board. The two striking Railroad Brotherhoods—in contrast to 18 or 20 brotherhoods which can be satisfied without strike—insist on telling railroad management how many cars they will hook together to make a train, and how many operators the railroad must dead-head on runs.

If granted, this puts management at the mercy of political-minded union bosses. They would then soon have our industries and utilities hopelessly in the red, or thoroughly in chaos. That's the point at which government steps in and takes over both industry and labor, and the process that spells ruin in Russia and Britain begins here. It is ushered in by somewhat different means, but the results will be the same.

Neither capital nor labor needs to suffer this kind of ruin in the United States of America. We are in no such desperate emergency as to require any such measures. It is entirely possible to be utterly fair to our union membership as well as to the much larger body of workers who are not unionized without destroying this last great remaining free state on the face of the earth.

One of the many letters arriving says: "I understood that the late President Roosevelt would do away with war agencies when hostilities ceased. The taxpayer is soaked more and more by the subsidy scheme and government control. It looks like we might get somewhere if we would get rid of government in business." The writer then reports black market prices in butter, cream, lumber, and so on. Black markets are growing like weeds on the farms that can't be planted because of no machinery, because of no steel (although there was a surplus of steel when war stopped but which got short because of OPA prices and strikes, and now will continue to be absent because of no coal, which is not mined because of strike!)

Chester Bowles repeats and every government bureau repeats what no official can prove at all—that keeping on the restrictions will stop inflation and bring prices down and bring production up. The old Hitler technique was to keep on repeating what could not be proved—what in fact was outrageously untrue. The truth is that inflation is HERE and will increase until production catches up with demand, or until the people's dollars are all gone. Their demand will no longer matter when they are left destitute of both goods and dollars. Then we have depression. The truth is that only what encourages production—and fast—will stop inflation. The truth is that subsidies are just another way of paying for inflation and one that you and I pay the tax-collector for—we can't even avoid. The consumer CAN escape ordinary inflation if he goes without the goods, but he can't escape tax-collector inflation even if he GOES WITHOUT—for the sheriff is right behind the tax collector.

The truth is that OPA rentals are a subsidy on the one who rents out quarters for the benefit of the tenant—a subsidy which falls heaviest on the poorest and most decent of those who rent out houses and rooms. The result is that thousands of owners are going bankrupt, some old folks and widows are committing suicide, and tens of thousands of apartments, houses and rooms are being nailed up because the owners can't play Lady Bountiful any longer.

There is still time to arise and save our free state. Congress has the authority.

Next Tuesday, then!